

**Remarks**

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted in regard to the present U.S. National Phase Application of PCT/US00/14615, filed concurrently herewith. The above amendment inserts a reference in the first sentence following the title, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.78, to the copending U.S. Application No. 09/322,745, from which the present application claims priority.

While no fees are believed payable upon this amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the payment of the required fee(s) or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-1940.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter an allowance of all claims in this case. Action to that end is courteously solicited. If any issues remain to be resolved, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney for the Applicant at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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